

MARTIN,
TENNESSEE

THE PACER

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PACERF.Y.I.

only



days left until the last day of class

LOCALWEATHER

| | | |
|-----------|----|------------------|
| Tuesday | 69 | Cloudy |
| Wednesday | 72 | Few Showers |
| Thursday | 59 | Thunderstorms |
| Friday | 42 | Few Snow Showers |
| Saturday | 41 | Sunny |

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— Free in single copy —

Football team makes history

Season ends with championship, playoff loss



MATTHEW MAXEY / Sports Information
Skyhawk cornerback Brandon Cooper tackles a Southern Illinois player near the endzone during UTM's 36-30 loss to the Salukis Nov. 25.

Staff Reports

What a long, strange trip it was for the UTM Skyhawk football team this season.

First-year head coach Jason Simpson was the sixth coach of the Skyhawks since it became an OVC team in 1992. The team hadn't won any conference championships or played a postseason game since 1988.

In fact, despite having a winning season in 2005, the Skyhawks were picked in the 2006 preseason polls to finish near the bottom of the OVC heap after losing former head coach Matt Griffin to Murray State.

The trip appeared tough, but the tough guys prevailed.

Simpson led his pigskin pack to its first OVC championship in history, as well as to the university's first postseason game in 18 years. In that game, at first dominated by the Skyhawks, the team lost 36-30 to No. 10-ranked Southern Illinois University, but came within 57 seconds of a trip to Montana and a

Top 8 national finish.

"You hate coming out on the losing end in a game that was so tight," Simpson said. "I am so proud of our kids. I am proud of our university. I am proud of administration and our fans. I thought our kids represented us well today and gave us a chance to win at the end."

"We are a very physical team. We are a tough team, mentally tough," he said. "I knew we weren't going to be shell shocked to be in the playoffs."

The Skyhawks entered the NCAA Division I playoff game ranked No. 12 in the nation and with a 9-3 season slate. The team's trip up through the rankings since its decisive victories over Gardner-Webb and Jacksonville State marks the first time the team has been ranked nationally since becoming a I-AA team in 1992.

Perhaps the sweetest moment of the season, however, beyond the

— See 'Skyhawks' on Page 8

Public Safety search down to three names

Will York

A special search committee recently recommended three finalists from a pool of about 35 to serve as director of the UTM Department of Public Safety.

However, Joe Croom, who chairs the five-member search committee, said the committee is waiting to announce the three finalists until all three have been notified, but none had been notified at press time Monday.

From the pool of local and regional applicants, the committee interviewed seven individuals, including Jacqueline Bumpas, director of Public Safety at Fisk University; Ray Coleman, interim director of Public Safety at UTM; Dennis Joyner, director of Mid-South Training Institute; Jimmie Leach, president of Training Services Group; Deborah Perry, assistant chief of police at UT Knoxville; and Darrell Simmons, lieutenant detective at UTM.

The committee conducted the seven interviews over a 10-day period ending Nov. 21, and the commit-

tee recently chose the three finalists to recommend to Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Al Hooten.

Hooten will review the three finalists' applications and make the final hiring decision, but no timetable for his decision is in place, UTM Director of University Relations Bud Grimes said.

Previously, Croom said he hoped to send three to five recommendations to Hooten by Nov. 1.

The position requires a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, public administration or related field, with at least five years of experience in law enforcement supervision and a valid police certification. A master's degree and university law enforcement supervision experience are preferred, the official listing says.

The previous director, Rick Hatler, resigned Aug. 31 after having a sexual relationship with a female Public Safety officer.

The director of Public Safety oversees a department of about 70 employees, including 11 commissioned police officers.



Still no compromise

Jon-Michael St. Amant

The United Steelworkers union strike against the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. stretches toward its fourth month since the initial walkout on Oct. 5.

With the onset of the Christmas holiday both parties involved face more struggles than ever and there is still no end in sight. Additionally, new information has surfaced from both sides to deal with the constant struggle for a reasonable settlement.

Recently, Goodyear held an earnings conference for its investors. The USW has since produced a newsletter titled, "Investor Alert" which, according to the USW Web site is a "scathing critique" of the remarks made at the conference. Also, a Web site has been produced by the USW known as "Goodyear Alert" to inform investors of issues related to the strike and Goodyear's earnings.

"Goodyear Alert is another tool we're using to facilitate a dialogue with other Goodyear stakeholders in what appears to be a long confrontation," said USW President Leo Gerard.

Despite information produced by the USW, Goodyear has announced record sales in the third quarter. Also, as of Nov. 21 Goodyear has closed \$1 billion of its senior notes. These notes are similar to bonds issued by the U.S. government. Some of the money from these bonds will be used for general company purposes which, according to a press release, may be used to address the strike.

Bargaining teams from both sides have met twice

— See 'Strike' on Page 8

Duo of crashes kill one, crosswalk hit-and-run under investigation

Jay Baker

James Jackson, 25-year-old Martin man, has died from serious injuries received in a two-vehicle accident with UTM student Jay Bond on Skyhawk Parkway.

Bond was driving his 2001 Ford Ranger on Gardner-Hynd's Road when he failed to stop at the stop sign at Skyhawk Parkway as he attempted to turn right, bringing him into the path of Jackson's 1999 Ford F-150. The collision sent Jackson's truck off the highway, slamming it into a utility pole.

According to the Martin Police Department, Jackson was thrown from his truck before it came to rest in a

field adjacent to the highway.

Both men were taken to Volunteer Community Hospital. Jackson was later airlifted to Nashville's Vanderbilt University Hospital where he remained in critical condition until his death.

Jackson was not wearing his seat belt.

Bond, who was wearing his, was cited by MPD for failure to yield.

Pedestrian hit in crosswalk

Friday night, Nov. 17, a vehicle struck a pedestrian in front of Gooch Hall in a hit-and-run accident, adding to student's fears that the crosswalk in unsafe.

The victim, Amber Staggs, told police she was attempting to cross University Street heading north, away from Gooch Hall. She also reported that she did not know the type of vehicle that struck her.

According to the MPD incident report, several individuals helped Staggs in the aftermath of the incident by calling 911.

A press release from the Martin Police Department, said that witnesses to the incident have been identified and police are now search for a dark colored sport utility vehicle with round headlights. Some SUV's with round headlights include the Jeep



Amateur Photograph
Martin Police Department officials called in a helicopter to evacuate the victim of a pedestrian hit-and-run, but the victim was transported to hospital by EMS.

Cherokee and the Nissan Xterra.

If you think you know the driver of this vehicle, call Crimestoppers at 587-2611 or MPD at 587-5355.

Our View

Editorial: Here’s your sign, students: Enter crosswalk at own risk

Lately, if students walk across University Street, they take their lives into their hands. An even better way to phrase it would be to say that their lives are on the line.

We understand that there’s not enough time in the day to get everything done, but people should not be in such a hurry that they hit someone.

We feel that this is carelessness on everyone’s part.

Drivers should take the time to slow down when reaching a crosswalk.

Call us crazy, but we would rather be a few minutes late to class than running over a pedestrian and being charged with vehicular homicide.

On the other hand, we feel that students walking across the street shouldn’t assume that everybody will stop for them.

Before students step into the street, they should at

least take a few seconds to see if the cars coming are showing signs of slowing down.

Another great idea would be if students hung up their cell phone for two seconds. No one can totally concentrate on the traffic when they’re trying to carry on a conversation.

At some campuses, the university will build a

bridge over the road so that students can walk across the without actually stepping a foot on the street. Maybe UTM needs to think about building something similar if the roads continue to be this dangerous.

We believe that everyone needs to use a little common sense when driving and walking to class.

It’s sad that UTM students have to be leary of crossing the street, but in this fast-paced world, time and drivers stop for no one.

It still applies today:

Look both ways before you cross the street.

THE PACER

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Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in personal columns are those of the writers and may not reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole. Editorials are written by members of the Editorial Board, with contributions from other students, campus administrators or community members on an as-issue basis.

The Pacer invites student organizations to submit press releases at least two weeks ahead of an event. We cannot guarantee the publication of any submitted letter, release or news story.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

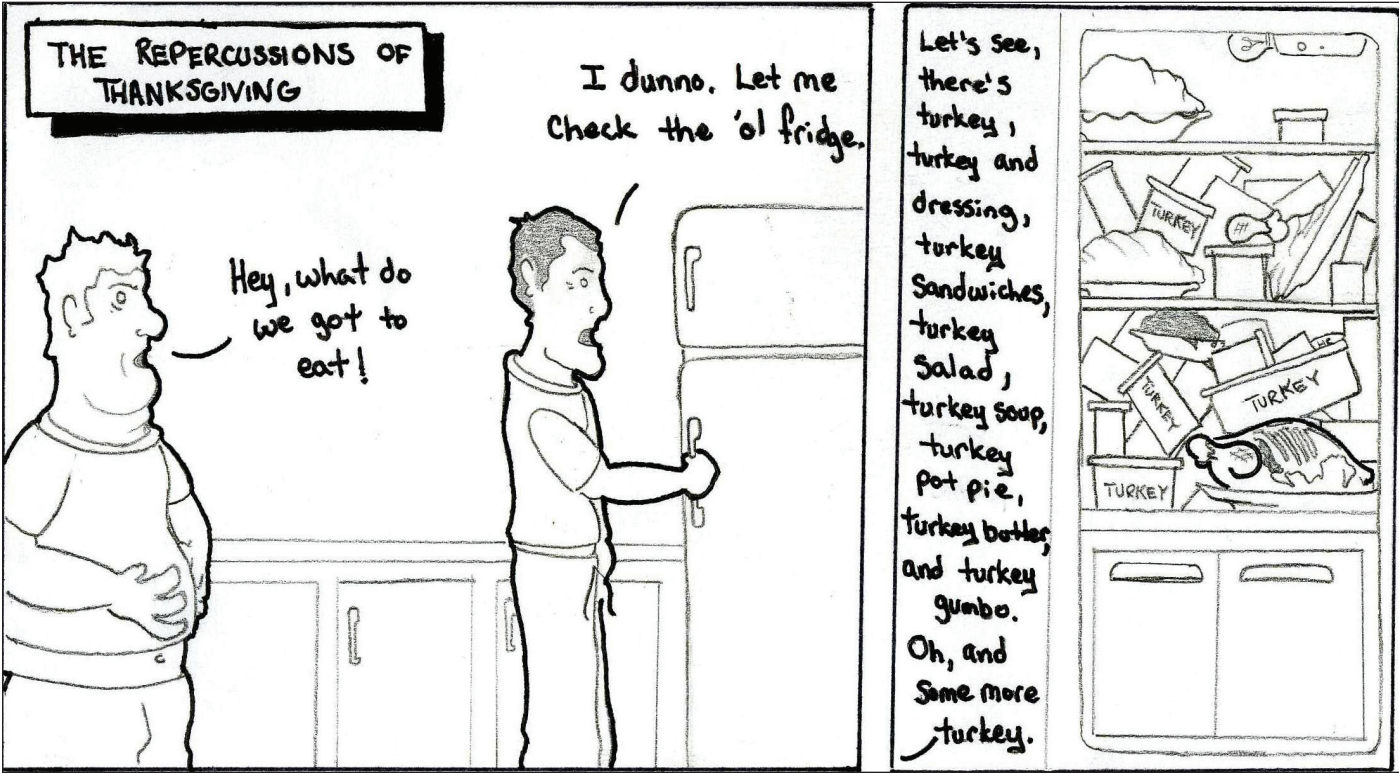
Story ideas or news tips may be e-mailed to pacer@utm.edu or presented at our weekly staff meetings, held at 5:15 p.m. every Tuesday during the semester. If you are unable to attend these meetings, please contact the Executive Editor to arrange a separate meeting.

The Pacer welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor at 314 Gooch Hall, Martin, TN 38238, through e-mail at pacer@utm.edu or via our Web site at http://pacer.utm.edu/write/. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 250 words. Letters must be signed and contain the name, major and hometown of the author, as well as contact information. All submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling and brevity. Publication preference will be given to letters of less than 250 words. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Columns or Guest Commentaries should be no longer than 750 words and will require a photo of the author. Publication is based on relevance and quality of the issue and publication is subject to the discretion of the Editorial Board

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

This newspaper is printed every Tuesday during the semester. Our press run ranges from 3,000 to 6,000 copies depending on the edition. The University of Tennessee at Martin earmarks \$3.60 per enrolled student to pay for staff salaries and overhead costs of running our office. The cost of printing the newspaper is covered by advertising revenue.



Letters to the Editor

Writer touts veggie life

If you see one movie this holiday season, make it *Fast Food Nation*. Not only will you be shocked by what is actually in your meat, you’ll be horrified to see the

process it took to get that burger on your tray. I’ve always considered myself to be an animal-lover, but after watching the movie, I looked into the issues a little more and was horrified to find that it’s not just

the fast-food industries that cut baby birds’ beaks off and slit cows’ throats while they are still conscious—it’s the norm for the meat industry. Going vegetarian is really the only way to help animals and your

health. Please visit GoVeg.com for more information, and catch *Fast Food Nation* in theaters now!

Kimberly Laster Martin

When shopping with masses, go well armed

As much as I love video games, and as much as I was excited about the new consoles coming out, I could never imagine standing in line for an untold number of hours to get one.

However, it seems that I am in the minority here.

When the Playstation 3 came out on Nov. 17, I heard radio stories on the Tuesday before saying that people had already pitched tents outside of some Best Buy stores just so they could have a Playstation 3. And on the day it came out, people were apparently getting shot and beat up for a video game console.

Playstation is not the only one. People waited in line for the Nintendo Wii as well.

Now that Thanksgiving is over, we have entered one of the busiest shopping seasons of the year. For some, this means it’s time to compete with thousands

of other people to get the hottest gifts for Christmas. It seems people will go to any lengths to make sure that their families get exactly what they want for Christmas.

For example, most stores open at 5 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving. Why anyone would want to get up so early when they don’t have to work is beyond me. People spend most of Thanksgiving Day cooking and then stuffing themselves full of turkey while they entertain—or tolerate—their family and friends. To a logical mind, these people would probably want to spend the next day resting and eating leftovers. Maybe even putting up their Christmas decorations.

Instead, they set their alarm clocks for 4 a.m. and get to the store thirty minutes before the store opens just so they can beat every-



Rachel Rogers
A&E Editor

one else.

Don’t get me wrong, I love getting gifts for Christmas, and I’m not above saying that I don’t want the “cool” stuff for Christmas. But if my mother told me that she was going to get up at 5 a.m. to go shopping to make sure she got me what I wanted, I would probably call up the nearest mental hospital and ask them to come take her away.

Let’s not even talk about what happens once the stores open! People have been known to get trampled in the mad rush to be the first to buy an iPod or the latest fashions. Perhaps they don’t go to the extremes of shooting

people---unless they are waiting for a Playstation 3---but it’s still possible to receive bodily harm.

The solution? Get more items in. Advertise in bolder, bigger letters (not the fine print at the bottom of the ad) how many of the item you have. Or take a ticket from Best Buy, who actually did hand out tickets to people waiting for the Wii. They handed out the same number of tickets as they had Wii’s, and that seemed to work pretty well.

If you are one of these people who woke up before the sun to go shopping this past Friday, I salute you. If the rest of you, like me, slept most of Friday, but still have to make that foray into the world of retail to buy gifts, I leave you with one piece of advice: you might want to wear body armor.

Sink your season-related stresses with few simple tips

Tomi Parrish
Faculty adviser

With the holiday season engulfing us, I feel compelled (as usual) to offer my tips for survival.

• Get off your cell phones. Walk to class and actually smile and exchange “hellos” with fellow students and faculty along the way. Tell your parents, friends and significant others that your phone is not the focus

of your existence. With finals approaching, talking on your cell phone should be at the bottom of your priority list.

• Look around you. Kick the fallen leaves and enjoy their crackling sounds. See how powerfully blue the sky is on clear days. Enjoy the shirt-sleeve weather we’re having this week. It won’t last long.

• Make copious lists—one for school, one for social

activities, one for holiday goals, etc. You get the drift. Life without a list is like a traveler without a map. You might get there from here, but an equal chance exists that you will get lost instead.

• Follow your lists. We all get overwhelmed at the end of each semester, so keeping track of what we’ve marked off our lists can make us feel better – really.

• Don’t worry about what

you can’t control. Breathe deeply and repeat after me: “This too shall pass.” It may feel like a kidney stone at the time, but every crisis eventually will pass.

• Come back to school with a renewed dedication to knowledge. Note that I said “knowledge,” not “grades.” Knowledge, and what you do with it, is the real power. Embrace it.

Happy holidays, y’all.

:(Got something to say? :-(
<http://pacer.utm.edu>
:-) Submit a letter to the editor :-)

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Empty Bowls, Full Hearts

Kelsey Clarkson
Staff Writer

Community members gathered at the Martin Interfaith Student Center Thursday, Nov. 16, to raise \$1,910 for the Weakley County We Care Food Bank with the help of a pottery project called Empty Bowls.

David McBeth, professor of Fine Arts at UTM, established the local food drive efforts four years ago. McBeth has been involved with this project for the past decade since he heard about it from a fellow ceramics artist.

Empty Bowls is the pottery artisan's unique attempt to convey how many people go to bed hungry at night because there is no food to fill their bowls. McBeth made close to 300 ceramic bowls to be bought with all proceeds going to We Care. In a presentation demonstrating the making of his 900 pounds worth of clay artwork, McBeth said, "Going to bed hungry in this day and age doesn't make any sense to me."

This is such a strong issue for McBeth that he footed the bill for all materials and spent a month dur-



KELSEY CLARKSON / The Pacer

ing his busy schedule to make all the bowls. Large bowls fetched a \$20 donation, while smaller bowls garnered a \$10 donation.

Those in attendance did not go to bed hungry. From 5-7 p.m., people gladly filled their bowls with the wide variety of soups being offered. A meal of soup and bread came with each bowl purchase, and only \$5 without a bowl. UTM students got to eat for free. Martin Cumberland Presbyterian, Martin First United Methodist, St. James Episcopal, St. Jude Roman Catholic, and Trinity Presbyterian provided the soup, bread and drinks for the event.

Betty Baker, the director

of Weakley County's We Care Food Bank, presented McBeth with a plaque in recognition of his efforts to raise money for families less fortunate. During the past few years, the Empty Bowls Project has raised over \$10,000.

This year, McBeth hopes to raise \$6,000 before Christmas to help families as the holiday season arrives. In the past, enough money has been raised to purchase a walk-in cooler and a walk-in freezer for We Care's kitchen.

If you were unable to attend the Empty Bowls supper and would like to receive a bowl for a \$20 donation, contact We Care Ministries at 587-6257.

Police Report

The information contained in this report is taken directly from public records distributed by the UTM Department of Public Safety. DPS can be contacted by calling (731) 881-7777.

| | |
|--|--|
| 9:13 a.m., November 13 University Courts | hospital by EMS. |
| Subject reported vandalism to her vehicle. Investigation continues. | 5:30 p.m., November 17 University Center |
| 9:58 a.m., November 13 Lot 14 | Report of the theft of university property. Investigation continues. |
| Vehicle towed due to excessive tickets. | 7:22 p.m., November 17 University St. |
| 10:29 a.m., November 13 Browning | Traffic accident involving a pedestrian. Officers assisted Martin Police Department. |
| Subject reported the lost of personal property | 4:07 a.m., November 19 University St. |
| 10:26 p.m., November 13 Lot 2 | Mr. Jody L. Dycus was arrested for public intoxication (General Sessions Court). |
| Mr. Christopher L. Cherry was issued a citation for a stop sign violation (City Court). | 2:30 p.m., November 19 Browning |
| 11:57 a.m., November 14 University St. | Report of some contraband found in the building. Substance is secured at headquarters. |
| Mr. Daniel S. Ferguson was issued a citation for failure to yield to a pedestrian (City Court). | 10:04 a.m., November 20 Lot 10 |
| 2:33 p.m., November 14 University Center | Report of a subject that had been bitten by an animal. Ms. Lisa M. Sullivan was issued a citation for allowing an animal to run at large (City Court). |
| Mr. Dwayne M. Winfield was arrested for a bad check violation (General Sessions Court). | 2:02 p.m., November 20 Lot 13 |
| 10:39 a.m., November 16 Lot 2 | Subject reported theft of personal property from their vehicle. Investigation continues. |
| Traffic accident involving two vehicles. | 2 a.m., November 21 Lot 14 |
| 1 p.m., November 17 Gooch | Subject reported theft of personal property from their vehicle. Investigation continues. |
| Report of a subject having an allergic reaction. Officers and emergency personnel responded. Subject was treated on the scene and transported to the | |

Trivia Bowl Results

The University Scholars Honors Program held their annual Trivia Bowl on Monday, November 13 & 14. While several individuals took part in the bowl, only one team could take home the glory.

Sigma Chi fraternity won first place. Their team was composed of Richard Coday, Ty Elders, Adam Francis, Will Wade, and Kyle Kragenbrink.

Most Ballers Eva! won second place. Their team was composed of Dan Spencer, Jeff Bunn, Justin Condron, Joe Kendrick, and Craig Smith.

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BARNES&NOBLE

Waddell, DeSantis crowned in scholarship pageants

Megan Madden
Staff Writer

And the winner is... November 18, 2006 marked the date of a new chapter in two womens' lives.

On Saturday night UTM's Fine Arts Building was host to two Scholarship Pageants: Miss UTM and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival. Selena DeSantis was crowned Miss UTM and Kara Waddell was crowned Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

The courts for both titles included First Maid Brittany Broach and Second Maid Lisa Sullivan in the Miss UTM pageant; First Maid Jeri Anthony and Second Maid Tara Martchek in the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageant. The evening began with an introduction of the contestants. In all, 14 girls came out in hopes of clinching the titles. The hosts for the pageant, Valli Kugler Kelly, Miss Tennessee 2002, and Leah Beth Bolton, Tennessee's Outstanding Teen, were brought to stage and the judges were announced and recognized. Seven judges were lined up ready to decide the outcome. Judges included Scotty W. Harris, Laura Ferguson Berryman,

Angela Blair, Nancy Hicks Williams, DeDe Johnson, Laura Lessenberry, and William Mann. After the introduction of the judges, the Lifestyle and Fitness Swimsuit Competition took place. All 14 participants strutted their way to glory in their swimsuits. The Artistic Expression in Talent Competition followed the Lifestyle Competition. Talents ranged from artistic dance to singing to piano playing. As if the talent portion was not enough, the contestants then continued to wow and amaze the audience with the Evening Wear Competition. A variety of colors and styles filled the stage, expressing each contestants' own sense of fashion.

To end the evening, the On-Stage Interviews took place. Each contestant was asked a question at random. Before the announcement of the top six finalists, heart-spoken farewells were given by the previous reigning queens of both 2006 titles: Jennifer Roberts, Miss UTM and Holly Buchanan, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival. Anticipation grew as the top six finalists were introduced in no particular



UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

The 2007 Miss UTM and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageants brought forth a lot of beauty and talent this year; however, only one could be crowned in each of the categories. (Left photo) From left to right: Brittany Broach, 1st runner-up; Selena DeSantis, 2007 Miss UTM; Jennifer Roberts, 2006 Miss UTM who crowned DeSantis; and Lisa Sullivan, 2nd runner-up. (Right photo) From left to right: Jeri Anthony, 1st runner-up; Kara Waddell, Miss Soybean Festival; Tara Martchek, 2nd runner-up.

order.

Finally, the crowns were given to Waddell and DeSantis.

DeSantis commented, "I am so honored to be Miss UTM. I hope to serve the campus and the City of Martin to the best of my ability."

Other awards given were the Non-Finalist Talent Award to Holly Lane for her vocal performance of "When God Fearin' Women Get the Blues," and the Non-Finalist Swimsuit Award to Rachel Zamata. Contestants in the 2007 Miss

UTM and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageants included Torie Todd, a freshman at Dyersburg State Community College; Meghan Johnson, a senior at Munford High School; Martchek, a sophomore at the University of Memphis; Zamata, a current law student; Broach, a junior at UTM; Carrie Booker, a freshman at UTM; Rachel Moore, a junior at UTM; Glenda Mash, a senior at UTM; Sullivan, a senior at UTM; DeSantis, a senior at UTM; Waddell, a junior at UTM; Anthony, a senior at

Jackson State Community College; Lane, a junior at David Lipscomb University; and Shelby Cooper, a senior at Jackson Christian School.

Waddell and DeSantis will both receive a \$1500 scholarship, \$200 Gift Certificate from Joann's of Union City, an official crown, an official Miss America Crown Pin, and flowers.

First Maids Anthony and Broach both receive a \$500 scholarship and flowers. Second Maids Sullivan and Martchek both receive a \$200 scholarship and flow-

ers.

Scholarships were funded by UTM and the City of Martin.

Waddell began her reign by saying, "This has been the best and most overwhelming experience of my life. I plan to do so much in the community to help it grow and flourish. I especially look forward to working and taking a strong stand with my platform, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital."

DeSantis and Waddell will both go on to compete in the Miss Tennessee Pageant.

'E-recruiting' services make job hunting easier for UTM students

Michael Crump
Staff Writer

It's getting closer to graduation time and most students are unaware of the roads that lie ahead of them.

UTM offers an online Web site on which students can post their resume. UTM also helps its students by listing job openings and internships that employers are able to put on this Web site.

There are currently 382 students' resumes that are on this Web site from Martin and 475 employee positions that are ready to be filled. This year alone there have been over 502 jobs posted on this Web site.

How successful is it? Employment Information Services Administrative Assistant April Boals said, "One student alone has already had eight interviews with different employers."

This proves that this service can be beneficial to

students if they will get involved with it.

Another question that crosses the mind is: How much does it cost to have your interview posted?

"There is not a fee that is charged to the student or facility, but rather the school has to pay to be a member of it," Boals said.

This Web site is full of opportunities, which include jobs other than those in the local vicinity. This Web site includes several jobs that are posted all over the United States.

One of the most beneficial things about this e-recruiting service is that it is easy to get involved in. Simply log on to www.erecruiting.com, and then complete a registration profile.

Once you have completed this you can start searching through jobs and apply for the ones that suit you.

If you want to find a job in a different matter, another important date to keep in mind is Thursday, March 1

Student Employment provides:

- E-recruiting services
- Campus Interviews with various employers for differing positions
- Career Day at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 1

from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., which is Career day. Employers set their tables out and have job recruiting booths set up in the UC.

The Student Employment Center offers a place for employers to interview their prospects if they are interested in them on Friday mornings.

If you have any questions, contact the Employment Information Center at 881-7729 or 881-7740.

Electrical problems anticipated cause of Lauderdale County fire

Bessie Cherry
Staff Writer

According to Halls Mayor Trent McManus, electrical problems could be to blame for the fire that destroyed Lauderdale County's former Tupperware plastics factory, located in Halls, on Saturday, November 4.

"I've been told that the cause of the fire is electrical, however that has not yet been officially documented," McManus said Monday, November 13. "I'll be able to tell the public more when the investigation is complete," added McManus.

Halls Fire Department and 10 neighboring county fire departments fought the blaze for nearly 5 days, rotating firefighters around the clock, until the explosive fire was extinguished Thursday of the following week.

McManus said Halls officials were released from fire-related duties

Thursday, November 9, with the exception of Halls Fire department, which did not officially leave the scene until Friday, November 10.

Traffic also resumed Thursday on roads and streets that had been blocked off during the fire by the Tennessee Highway Patrol, including those off U.S. Highway 51 South leading east to the plant.

McManus says 1.5 million gallons of Halls city water was used during extinguishing efforts but that the town will be reimbursed for its expenses. McManus said there was never a concern about there being enough water for the rest of those served by the Halls Water Department.

"Town of Halls Water Department had enough capacity to fight the fire and provide the town's daily supply," said McManus.

McManus said the town of Halls did not have to pay the surrounding county firefighters for aiding in

last week's fire.

"There is a program that is supposed to reimburse all fire departments for some of their expenses," McManus says.

Now that the fire is out, clean up efforts are underway. McManus says because the building was owned by Tupperware—not by the Town of Halls—city officials are not handling those efforts.

McManus said that before the building was destroyed, the city of Halls had high hopes that another factory would come in soon and occupy the building, thus bringing more employment to Lauderdale County.

McManus added, "It's a great loss for both the city of Halls and Lauderdale County."

McManus says he'll be giving out public information concerning the fire as it becomes available.

Campus Bulletin Board

The Pacer provides this space free of charge to campus clubs and organizations that wish to promote events or offerings. Items to appear in The Pacer's "Campus Bulletin Board" section must be submitted at least a week ahead of the event, either by e-mail to pacer_news@utm.edu or by dropping off a flier and press release to 314 Gooch Hall. Preference is given by event date closest to printing and by order received. Please note that submission does not necessarily guarantee printing. Call (731) 881-7780 for more information.

Wanted: Toys for Children

Christmas is coming, but not for some children. We would like to help make Christmas special for these children in our community this year. Please drop off new toys for boys or girls (any age) in the main office of the Sociology Building by December 1.

SAC Events

SAC will be sponsoring several events this week. On Tuesday night, November 28, at 9:09 p.m. in Watkins auditorium, SAC will be bringing back Deal or No Deal. Last time we gave away over \$700. This could be your big chance! On Friday night SAC will be showing *V for Vendetta* at 9 p.m. in Watkins auditorium. We will be serving free popcorn.

Christmas for a Cause

LEAD Academy presents "Christmas for a Cause" from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on December 2 at the UTM Student Life Center.. There will be several events, including a silent auction, breakfast with Santa, gingerbread house contest, crafts, pictures with Santa and local entertainment. Admission is \$2 for ages 13 & up and \$1 for ages 2-12. All proceeds go to community and nationwide philanthropic organizations. For more information, contact Laura Humphrey at 881-7525.

PKP Lecture

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society will meet to recognize the top 3 percent of the university's first and second-year students. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. on November 28 in Watkins Auditorium. This year's PKP lecturer will be Dr. Ann Gathers, assistant professor

of biological sciences and will speak on "About face: Neural Development changes in Face Recognition." The lecture is free and open to the public.

Tri Beta Research

Tri-Beta presents Carrie Coleman, UTM alumnus, to present her research on Gamma Herpes Virus 68 Infection of Bone Marrow Cells at 5:30 p.m. on November 28 in Brehm 259.

Theatre Auditions

Vanguard Theatre will hold auditions for its spring production of *The Left Hand Singing* by Barbara Lebow on December 4 and 5. The auditions will be held at 7:00 nightly in room 235 of the Fine Arts Building and are open to anyone on campus. There are four female roles and two male roles available.

Blood Donation

Be an angel to someone this Christmas season and give the gift of life. Please donate blood when the Lifeline Bloodmobile visits UTM on December 5 and 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the UC. All donors will receive a free drawstring backpack.

Vietnam War Documentary

Come see one of the most powerful documentary movies of all time: *Hearts and Minds*, an academy award-winning movie on the Vietnam War at 7 p.m. on November 30 in Library Media Services.

Presentation of Science Papers

Tri-Beta will host their 2nd annual Poster Presentation of Science Papers from 12-2 p.m. on December 5 in Brehm Hall. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will

be awarded. Titles and names for posters are due by November 30 at 5 p.m. to Dr. Wilkins by e-mail or in her mailbox. For more details, contact Dr. Wilkins (hwilkins@utm.edu) or Dr. Blanchard (tblanch@utm.edu).

Campus Interviews

This is a good way for seniors and graduates to practice their interviewing skills and maybe even get a job offer! They must have a resume referral file with current resumes on file with our office before they can interview. The next campus interview will be on December 8 for the position of an Internal Associate Agent. All majors are welcome. For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Employment Information Services, 215 University Center.

Folklore and dulcimers combine for a good time

Ben Worley
Staff Writer

Folk music and folklore filled the air Thursday night in Watkins Auditorium.

The UTM Department of Visual and Theater Arts hosted the Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra in which a crowd of faculty, students, and Weakley County residents nearly filled the ground floor seats of the auditorium. The music was up-tempo and easy to sing along with, which was expected of the audience.

Prentice Ary founded the group in 2002. Ary is also the conductor, a guitarist and main singer of the group. When asked how he got this all started, he said, "After being retired, I needed something to do, so I started pluckin' the guitar."

Ary said that the idea came when he and a group of seniors visited the mountains and bought dulcimers and

were inspired to start the group. All the musicians live in the Northwest Tennessee area and some own local shops or work in the area. Musician J. Preston Prather said that more than 80 percent of the musicians did not even know how to play an instrument until about two to four years ago whenever they entered the group. They all came to Sharon, Tenn., throughout the year to practice together. The concert is performed every year in the middle of November at UTM.

There were 30 musicians, mostly playing dulcimers, which played about 30 different folk songs. Before each song was played, Walter Haden and Prather gave some history behind the song. These folklorists spoke of why the song was written or information about the composer or piece of music about to be played.

The orchestra did not just play songs from the past 200 years; they had some more recent songs from the past 50 years that the whole audience was able to appreciate. They

covered songs by The Carter Family, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash, John Denver, and Rascal Flatts. Children were encouraged to play the simpler instruments laid out across the floor just in front of the stage. The young children had smiles on their faces as they played with the orchestra through every song.

Some UTM students were incorporated into the program as well. Six dancers from a dance and arts class synchronized dances to go along with a few of the songs. The children joined in with the dancers, and as the music went on, more and more adults were compelled to dance also.

The night was filled with laughter, applause, and good music which seemed to remind everyone of their heritage.

"We're just a group of singers, and we're not quittin' yet," said Ary. The orchestra is scheduled to come back next year on November 15, 2007 to play for the local folk song fans and they made some fans this year that will be sure to come back for more.

Rhythms from around the world meets faculty from across the hall

David Hussey
Staff Writer

The students attending the Rhythms from Around the World Percussion Ensemble witnessed a creative portrayal of different rhythms and instruments along with a few good laughs.

The ensemble was held Sunday November 19th in the Harriet Fulton Theatre under the direction of Julie Hill and her assistant conductors Bryan Scott and Adrian Baker. Viewers began the afternoon listening to music of Swedish, Cuban, Japanese, German and Italian origin. After intermission the ensemble continued with rhythms of U.S., Cuban, Moroccan and Brazilian decent. The afternoon was filled with many unusual instruments and diverse sounds, which offered spectators an exciting journey through many different types of music.

The afternoon closed



ERIC WHITE/ The Pacer

with the "Trinidad" featuring the UTM Faculty Steel Band. With over 20 faculty members, including Nick Dunagan, Tom Rakes, Gerald Ogg and David Coffey, the faculty steel band raised much laughter with their flowered shirts and crazy hats. The laughter of seeing a professor bouncing around with sunglasses and a flowered shirt was matched only with the amazement of witnessing the skill and overall out-

standing job the steel band exhibited.

"It was a great experience and I'd like to see the music department do this more often," said steel band performer and UTM professor Jim Fieser.

The ensemble proved to be excellent entertainment and showed the perfect dedication and skill that the UTM Music Department possesses.

Will Ferrell finally shows his serious acting in *Stranger Than Fiction*

Heather Roland
News Editor

Stranger than Fiction is an excellent movie that shows Will Ferrell in a different but entertaining new role.

Stranger than Fiction tells the story of a man's life that is extremely mundane. Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) lives his life with a routine that can be timed to the exact second to his trusty watch, which includes how many brush strokes it takes to brush each tooth in his mouth.

Harold has lived his life alone for many years, while working for the IRS. He simply sticks to his routine; however, Harold wakes up to find one day that his life is being narrated.

Harold thinks that he is literally losing his mind. He tells himself that hearing voices is not normal, and finally seeks the help of a literature professor that helps him decide why his life is being narrated. In efforts to stop this narration, Harold steps outside of his routine and even becomes involved with a girl.

After several weeks, Harold discovers the author that is narrating his

life is doing it in her own book. He quickly has to find her because she is known for killing her novels' main characters.

Does Harold find her before she kills him in the book? Well, you will have to watch the movie to answer that question.

I thoroughly enjoyed this movie. It was interesting to see Will Ferrell in a role other than extreme comedy. He showed a sensitive side to the audience and captured their attention with his distress. Now, I love the majority of his comedies, and, while I think that he probably does do better in the world of comedy, I think that he did a superb job in this role. I think that it makes the audience see him as more of a serious actor. I do not



Will Ferrell plays Harold Crick, an ordinary man who one day finds his life is being narrated by a woman.

think that he should quit comedies all together, but I would like to see him in more roles such of that of Crick.

Again, I thoroughly enjoyed *Stranger than Fiction*. It was well worth the money to see it. Therefore, if you are looking for a movie to go see that is not a Christmas movie, *Stranger than Fiction* is an excellent choice in my opinion.

Weekend box office results

| Title | Weekend Gross | Total Gross |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| 1. <i>Happy Feet</i> | \$37,945,000 | \$100,126,000 |
| 2. <i>Casino Royale</i> | \$31,000,000 | \$94,223,000 |
| 3. <i>Deja Vu</i> | \$20,836,000 | \$29,029,000 |
| 4. <i>Deck the Halls</i> | \$12,000,000 | \$16,882,000 |
| 5. <i>Borat:</i> | \$10,400,00 | \$109,280,000 |
| 6. <i>The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause</i> | \$10,016,000 | \$67,199,000 |
| 7. <i>Stranger Than Fiction</i> | \$6,000,000 | \$32,761,000 |
| 8. <i>Flushed Away</i> | \$5,841,000 | \$57,366,000 |
| 9. <i>Bobby</i> | \$4,909,000 | \$6,157,000 |
| 10. <i>The Fountain</i> | \$3,725,000 | \$5,400,000 |



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From the Geek Corner: Can you afford tech gifts?

Matt Cook
Technical Editor

I have to confess, with all the new toys and gadgets that have been released the last two weeks in anticipation of the Christmas shopping season, I am having a hard time keeping up with it all. (Much less do I know what to write about or analyze for our readers.) Here are just a few products that have reached shelves or on-line retailers this month in time for holiday shoppers to be giddy about technology: Playstation 3, Nintendo Wii, Nikon D40 DSLR camera, Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T50, Microsoft Zune MP3 player, and Windows Vista, if you count the fact that it is for volume licensing only at this point.

November is just a techy time of year. It makes me happy of course, and I'm sure all the other technophiles out there are probably so excited about playing PS3 or Wii that they are skipping my column this week! But why exactly is November the target launch date for so many products? By one manner of thinking: holiday shopping. Companies must get the product to the retailers before the



Matt Cook
Technical Editor

Friday after Thanksgiving so moms can get their kids the latest, greatest stuff.

But do you think most companies think about college students this time of year? November is when most students wrap up the semester and begin preparing for exams. November is so far removed from the work days of summer that spending money is a forgotten memory. How on earth are we supposed to buy the fun stuff without planning ahead (since most students don't do that), taking out a loan or selling a spare kidney? I want an answer, seriously!

I know it is too much to ask for the companies to bump up their release dates to the end of summer, but they might at least consider spreading them out to accommodate the starving college kid. If not, maybe they can work out a deal with campus bookstores: a free Playstation 3 for every 40 books or so. Sound good to you?

Microsoft's Zune set to go nowhere

Matt Cook
Technical Editor

Two weeks after its highly anticipated release, Microsoft's Zune music player has yet to make a significant dent in the iPod dominated MP3 player market. Ranked eighth in sales during the opening week on Amazon.com's Top 25 List of bestsellers, the Zune has fallen to a pathetic 74th. Apple's newest generation of iPods, unveiled in September, still hold nine of the top 25 spots.

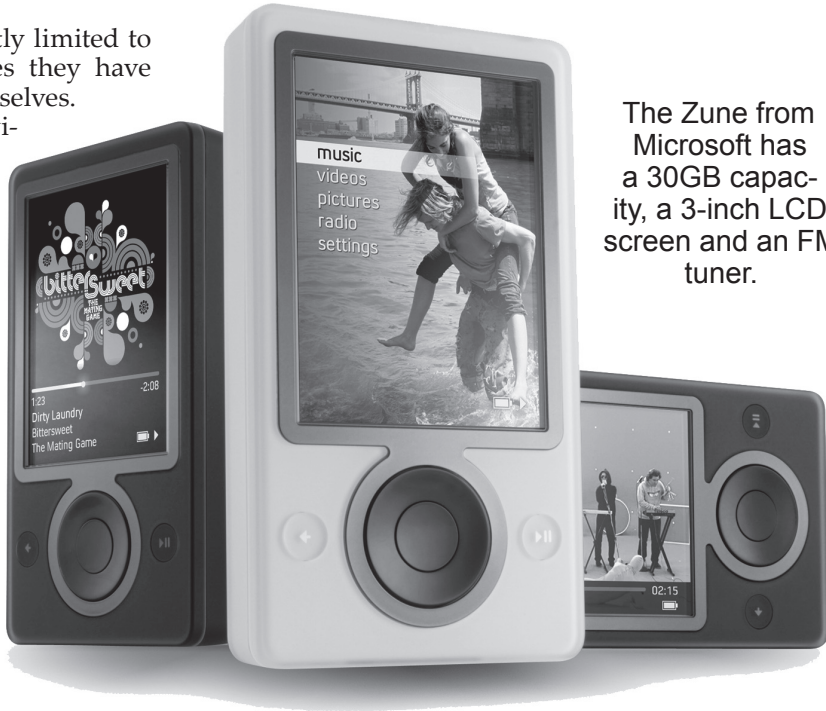
The Zune includes the ability to wirelessly transfer select content from any Zune player to another, but this content is limited to songs recorded by the user, podcasts, pictures and a selection of music by artists willing to let their music be traded for free.

Additional features promoted as "iPod killers" are the Zune's FM radio receiver and ability to play video in both portrait and landscape modes on the Zune's bright three-inch screen. The downside to its landscape mode is the lack of both videos and podcasts on Zune's Marketplace downloading site. Zune users

are currently limited to playing movies they have recorded themselves.

A rather obvious misleading advertisement on Zune.net, the official Web site of the media player, is that its software can import songs and movies that users already have in iTunes or Windows Media Player. These files are limited to ones imported from CDs and MP3 files only; files bought from the iTunes store (both songs and movies) are protected and cannot be played on the Zune player.

The last two major flaws in the Zune concept are the non-replaceable, weak battery and the design itself. The Zune's white, chocolate brown or black body imitates the iPod's shape and scroll wheel without succeeding: the body is bulky and the "wheel" does not



The Zune from Microsoft has a 30GB capacity, a 3-inch LCD screen and an FM tuner.

scroll, but rather clicks.

All of these are valid arguments against buying the Zune, which most consumers fortunately are seeing, but they are not to say Zune does not have its strengths. The wireless transfer feature will surely be useful for some, and plenty of other MP3 players are picking up on the FM transmitter trend (just not the iconic iPod.) The 30 GB hard drive is more than

adequate for music and pictures (but may be a bit small for video) and the ability to set the background image from your personal pictures as well as album art is a definite plus.

Bottom Line: The Zune may cut it for some people who wish to avoid the trendy iPod or another brand of MP3 but in the end there is little to be excited about.

Web site of the week

www.flash.net.html
.com

Jay Baker
Asst. News Editor

For a long time the phrase "surfing the net" has always been given the same connotation as "channel surfing." This has of course been inaccurate because there are no channels on the internet and there is no way to change them ... until now.

StumbleUpon has a great way to do just what the remote does for the television, only way better. Leading the social Web interaction

revolution that is changing the internet, StumbleUpon offers a unique take on the social book marking niche that is a facet of this revolution. With a downloadable toolbar for both Firefox and Internet Explorer, you can click the "stumble" button and be brought to a random site based on your likes and dislikes of over 500 topics. If you like the site, click the "thumb's up" button, or give it a "thumb's down." Either way, your vote will be counted with the rest of StumbleUpon's community

of stumblers. This helps ensure that the sites brought to you will be fresh and of the same quality that users with the same interests as you think. The sites it brings up tend to be very interesting: as they have been rated and reviewed by other stumblers.

StumbleUpon is a great way to find new sites if you are bored. You can also type in a word or topic and find a random, relevant site. There is a great community and lots of user support, which drives the whole service.

As your bookmarks toolbar fills up, you'll be amazed at how quickly you can find an entirely new set of favorite Web sites. StumbleUpon is a great way to keep your internet experience fresh. Go check it out.

Sony's Playstation 3 finally here Fans line up for blocks, wait in line for hours and even brave robbery to get their hands on the latest next-gen console

Jay Baker
Asst. News Editor

Sony launched its latest fray into the already crowded next-gen gaming world on November 17.

The launch comes after a seemingly long, arduous and delayed development and production process.

While the Xbox 360 and Wii have had successes of their own, the Playstation 3's plan for success is all about new technology.

The PS3 uses the new Blu-ray discs which can currently hold 50 GB of data. It also comes standard with either a 20 GB hard drive or a 60 GB hard drive and a built in Wi-Fi adapter.

Perhaps the most exciting feature is the PS3's new processor: the Cell Broadband Engine, which, according to Sony's Web site, is 40 times faster than the Playstation 2's processor. The processor works by having 8 separate "cores" work together in a process called "parallel processing."

The PS3 will have quite a battle to reach the same massive sales it enjoyed (and is still enjoying) with



the PS2. At launch, only about 200,000 consoles were available. Also, Microsoft has learned from the mistakes of their first Xbox while Nintendo has created what could be the most in-

novative game system ever with the Wii. It will be interesting to see how Sony's 3rd party support (traditionally very strong) propels or sinks the PS3.

PS3 Launch Titles

SCEA Launch Titles

Resistance: Fall of Man™
NBA 07
Genji: Days of the Blade™

Third Party Publisher Titles

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Blazing Angels™ Squadrons of WWII | Ubisoft |
| Call of Duty®3 | Activision |
| EA Sports™ Fight Night Round 3 | Electronic Arts |
| Full Auto™2: Battlelines | Sega |
| Madden NFL 07 | Electronic Arts |
| MARVEL™:ULTIMATE ALLIANCE | Activision |
| Mobile Suit Gundam®: CROSSFIRE | NAMCO BANDAI Games |
| NBA 2K7 | 2K Sports |
| Need For Speed™ Carbon | Electronic Arts |
| NHL® 2K7 | 2K Sports |
| RIDGE RACER® 7 | NAMCO BANDAI Games |
| Tiger Woods PGA TOUR® 07 | Electronic Arts |
| Tony Hawk's Project 8™ | Activision |
| Untold Legends™ Dark Kingdom™ | Sony Online Entertainment |

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Skyhawks see halftime lead slip away as season ends with loss at SIU

Brad Hurt
Sports Editor

Despite building an early lead in their first playoff game in school history, the Skyhawk football team could not hold on to the advantage, falling victim to a second-half rally in a 36-30 loss to Southern Illinois in Carbondale on Saturday.

With his team trailing 30-28 and the Skyhawks less than one minute away from surviving to see the second round of the NCAA Division I Football Championship playoffs, Saluki quarterback Nick Hill found wide receiver Alan Turner in the end zone for the go-ahead touchdown.

The Salukis erased a 27-7 second-half deficit by handing the ball off to star running back Arkee Whitlock for 112 yards in the third quarter. Whitlock scored three times in the second half after the Skyhawk defense had contained him in the first 30 minutes of the game.

From the opening kickoff, the Skyhawks set out to prove that they belonged in the playoffs, building a quick 14-0 lead in the first quarter. The scores came on both sides of the ball as Don Chapman punctu-

ated the opening drive of the game with a one-yard plunge into the end zone and Jack Greenwood provided a huge defensive play by picking off a Hill pass and returning it 51 yards for the Skyhawks' second touchdown.

The Skyhawks made quick work of their opening drive, taking only three plays to put the ball in the end zone.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Greg Preston saved his best performance of the season for last as he completed 10-of-16 passes for 137 yards and a touchdown. His key contribution came when he capped off an 80-yard Skyhawk scoring drive with a four-yard pass to tailback Justin Glover with 7:45 remaining in the second quarter to finish the scoring in the first half.

Preston completed 7-of-9 passes in the first half, including the first play of the game, which went to junior college transfer Jesse Burton for 51 yards.

"I thought Greg did a nice job today. He's a freshman. He grew up and made some plays today," said Skyhawk first-year head coach Jason Simpson.

Following another Chapman score and a missed ex-

tra point by Skyhawk kicker Taylor Brown, the Salukis began their gut-wrenching comeback.

Whitlock, who gained 71 yards in the first half, nearly doubled that total in the third quarter alone. He continually found holes in the Skyhawk defensive line that had not existed in the first half.

"He's as good as advertised," Simpson said. "No question about it."

Perhaps surprised at their position heading into the second half, the Skyhawks found their lead more difficult to maintain than it had been to build.

Following the first of Whitlock's third-quarter scores, which capped a 49-yard drive by the Payton Award finalist, the Skyhawks went three-and-out. The possession resulted in an Adam Ivey punt that traveled only 27 yards.

Ivey struggled in the second half, when he had to punt into the wind. As a result of the energized Saluki defense, he remained busy as the Skyhawks repeatedly faced third-and-long situations and found first downs to be elusive.

Ivey finished the game with four punts for an average of 25.8 yards. His

best effort only traveled 29 yards.

"Playing against the wind was a little factor in this game," Simpson said. "You didn't want to hang a ball up there."

The poor punting by the Skyhawks resulted in favorable field position for the Salukis, who took advantage of the situation.

Whitlock scored on runs of 11 and 47 yards in the third quarter on his way to 112 yards in the period. On the other side of the ball, Chapman finished the game with 108 yards on 31 carries.

The Skyhawks finished their milestone season at 9-3 and achieved a peak ranking of No. 8 in the national polls. Despite the disappointing outcome, they put on quite a show in their first playoff game, easily proving that they belong in the national football discussion.

"You hate coming out on the losing end in a game that was so tight," Simpson said.

"I thought our kids represented us well today and gave us a chance to win at the end."

SIU will travel to Montana for a second-round game on Dec. 2.



Trevor Ruskowski/ UTM Sports Information

Skyhawk linebacker Tirrdell Byrd brings down SIU quarterback Nick Hill for one of the team's two sacks during Saturday's NCAA Division I playoff game. Byrd and the UTM defensive unit shut down the Saluki offense in the first half before running back Arkee Whitlock ran wild for over 100 yards in the third quarter as the Skyhawks fell to the Salukis 36-30.

Equestrian team fares well at MTSU horse show

UTM Sports Information

The UTM women's equestrian team showed improvement in the recent Middle Tennessee State University Western Show.

Elaine Haw claimed second in the Open Horsemanship Saturday, while Kendra Leake was third and Lacey Dodd was sixth.

Haw captured a sixth-place finish in Friday's reining, while Amanda Weedon was fourth in Friday's Intermediate.

On Saturday, Weedon was second in the Intermediate, while Sydney Arnold was fifth and Haw was sixth in Open Horsemanship.

Kendra Leake was fifth in Open Horsemanship II Saturday. Dodd was sixth in the class. In Saturday's Novice, Sally Armstrong was fourth, while Emily Parker was sixth.

"We had a good effort in this show," said Kristen Jacobson, the team's assistant coach. "This was the western athletes' second trip out, and there were a few technical mistakes that cost us some placings. Overall this was a good performance and marked improvement."

The team will now have a three-month break before hosting the UTM Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) event on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007.

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Hoops begin with mixed results; face busy December

Zane Gresback
Staff Writer

The UTM men's and women's basketball teams started the 2006-07 season in a frenzy of early non-conference action and the pace is not slowing down.

The Skyhawk men began the season with a 64-61 win over High Point at the Jim Thorpe Association Classic in Cincinnati. Since that Nov. 10 contest, they have played five close games but failed to earn another victory. The Skyhawks will look to end the losing skid when the Evansville Purple Aces of the Missouri Valley Conference come to Martin Wednesday, Nov. 29. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Evansville will be the last opponent for the Skyhawks in November. UTM will open conference play at Southeast Missouri State this Saturday, Dec. 2. From there the Skyhawks play a string of crucial games before a trip to Hawaii on Dec. 28.

Junior college transfer Gerald Robinson is the Skyhawks' leading scorer so far this season. Robinson is averaging 13.6 points per game.

The Skyhawk women have had a little better fortune this young season and they hope their last effort will spill over into a tough December schedule.

The Skyhawks improved to 2-1 with a nail-biting 69-68 win in their home opener against Texas A&M Corpus Christi. With two seconds left in the game, UTM sophomore Phyllisha Mitchell came up with a rebound and was fouled. Then, with 1.3 seconds showing on the clock she drained the game-winning free throw to give the Skyhawks a one-point win.



A Skyhawk player drives down the court in the recent game against Texas A&M Corpus Christi. The Skyhawks won the game 69-68 and so far are posting a winning season.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

The Skyhawk women end their November schedule at home versus Dayton Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.

The beginning of December will offer quite a challenge to head coach Tara Tansil's group. They travel to Memphis Dec. 3 and then reunite with UTM alum Pat Summitt and her UT Lady Vols in Knoxville Dec. 5. This year's Lady Vols are unbeaten and ranked No. 4 nationally. The Skyhawk women open OVC play at Jacksonville State Dec. 9.

For updated scores and stats of all Skyhawk basketball action please visit www.utmsports.com.

'Skyhawks' continued from Cover

rankings and the publicity, was UTM's 42-14 romp over Griffin's Murray State squad to clinch the OVC championship and the automatic berth in the Division I playoffs.

"I went to work the day I got the job on Dec. 21," Simpson said. "We talked to our seniors about being OVC champions, and how it was a realistic goal. These guys responded to all the changes in the spring and bought into our system.

"This is a great group of seniors. We have 18 guys who are good quality people, and good quality players," Simpson said. "I'm thankful to help get them here (OVC championship)."

Simpson also has notched

UTM football trivia

- 1988 Division II Quarterfinals – UTM's last post-season appearance was in 1988 when the team advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Division II playoffs. The Skyhawks posted an 11-2 record that year. They beat Butler in the first round 23-6 and then lost to Texas A&I, 34-0, in the quarterfinals.
- 1967 Tangerine Bowl – UTM won the Atlantic Coast College Division Championship in 1967 when it beat West Chester State (Pa.) 25-8 in the Tangerine Bowl. UTM was coached by Bob Carroll and the team posted a 10-1 record.

a couple of "wins" of his own, placing fourth among a field of 16 coaches who were named finalists for The Sports Network's Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award. At midseason, Simpson was named I-AA's best coach by Matt Dougherty, executive director of I-AA football at The Sports

Network. The final award winner will be announced Dec. 15.

Along with numerous team and individual records set during the regular season, Simpson also set a record by being the only UTM head football coach to win nine games in his first coaching season. Bob Carroll, the legendary coach who took a UTM team to the Tangerine Bowl in 1967, won six games in his first season.

As the offensive coordinator at UT Chattanooga, Simpson's previous job, he helped the team post its first winning record since 1997. A native of Mississippi, Simpson will take his Skyhawks to his alma mater, Southern Miss, for the first game of the 2007 season.

Meanwhile, the team can bask in the glow of its winning season.

"I'm just so happy for the community of Martin and West Tennessee," Simpson said.

"They have a champion."

Information for this report contributed by UTM's Office of Sports Information.

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